SUPERMAN IN ACTION COMICS

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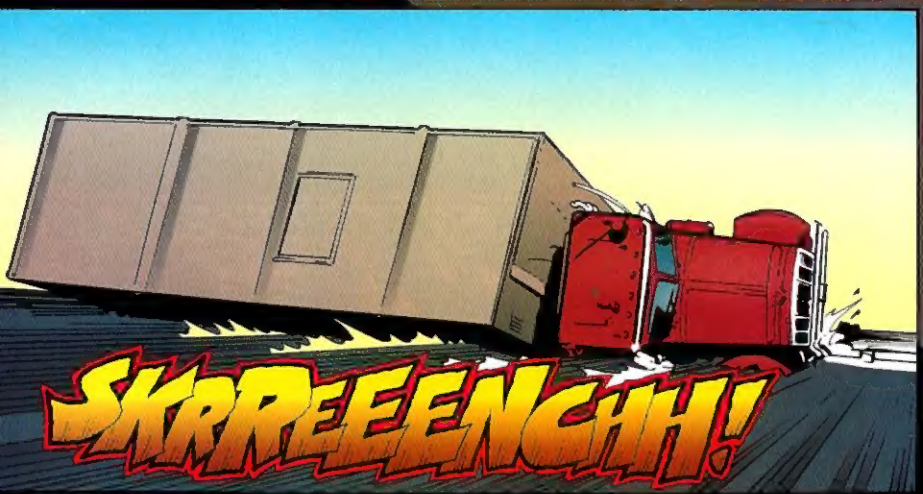
STUART IMMONEN
JOSE MARZAN, JR.

--THAT'S RIGHT, RICK. AY-LEE-EN INVASIONS LAST NIGHT, RIGHT HERE IN METROPOLIS!
WELL, JIM, KLEX DOESN'T USUALLY ENDORSE THESE KINDS OF WILD CLAIMS...
YEAH, BUT IT HAPPENED AT THE BOSS'S HOUSE!
Collyer Blvd 1/2
McClure Ave 1 1/2



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A Rag, a Bone, & a Hank of Hair

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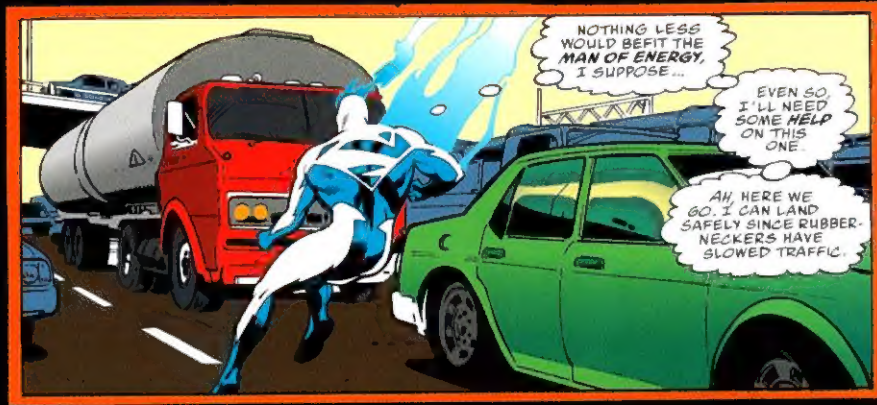
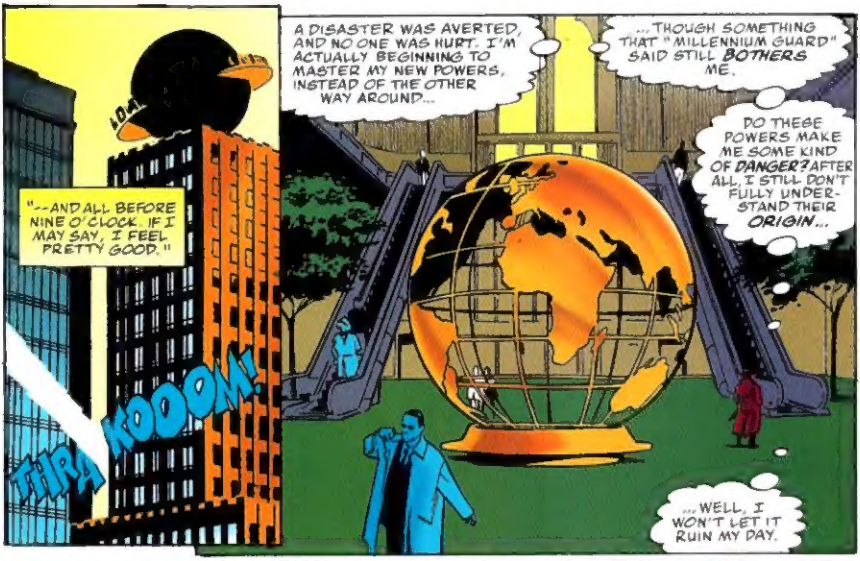
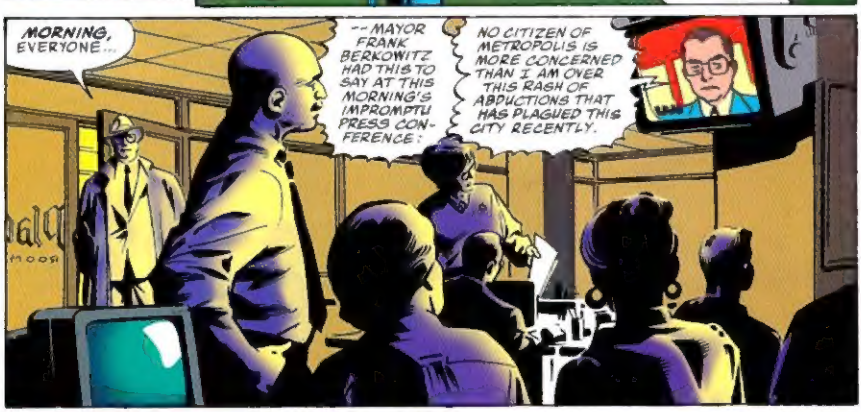
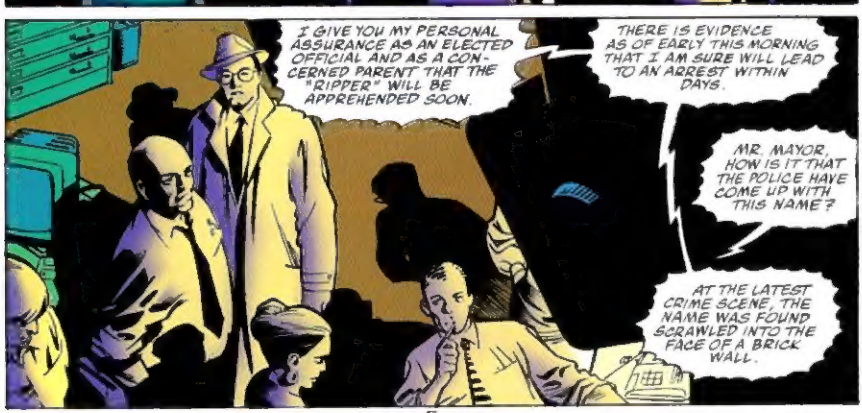

NOTHING LESS WOULD BEFIT THE MAN OF ENERGY, I SUPPOSE...
EVEN SO, I'LL NEED SOME HELP ON THIS ONE.
AH, HERE WE GO. I CAN LAND SAFELY SINCE RUBBER-NECKERS HAVE SLOWED TRAFFIC.

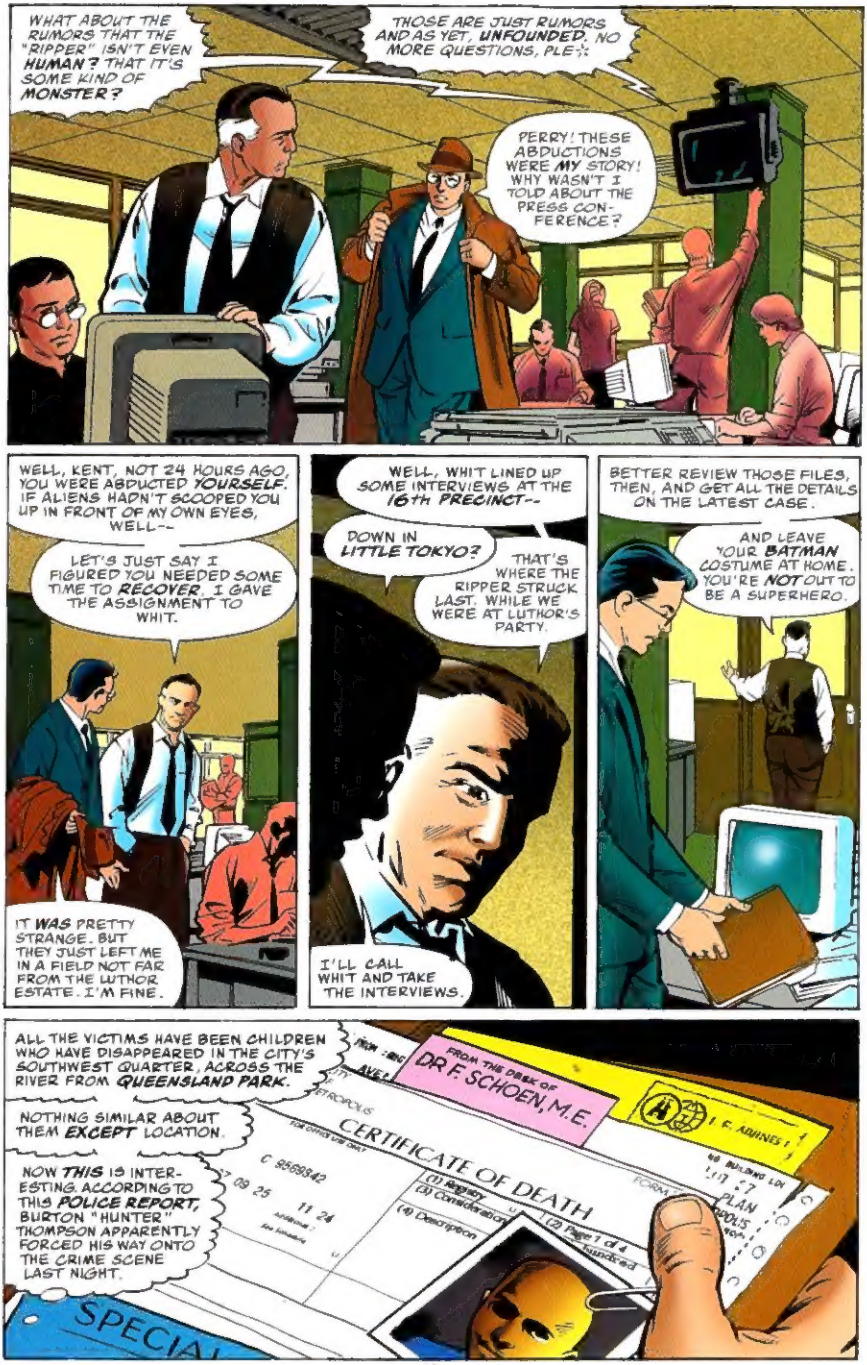
I GUESS WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT THE EARLY BIRD IS TRUE...
...BUT THIS IS THE BIGGEST WORM I'VE EVER SEEN!
EXCUSE ME. WHAT HAVE YOU GOT IN THE TANKS?
uh, K-- KEROSENE.
PERFECT. PULL UP UNDER THE OVERPASS AND FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS.
S-SURE, BUD. WHAT ARE YOU, A COP OR SOMETHIN'?

I KEEP FORGETTING SOME PEOPLE AREN'T YET FAMILIAR WITH SUPERMAN'S "NEW LOOK."
A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO, I COULD HAVE FLOWN THIS 18-WHEELER TO SAFETY, OR USED A TOUCH OF SUPER-STRENGTH.
THESE DAYS, I'M FORCED TO BE A LITTLE MORE... CREATIVE.
KEROSENE AND OXYGEN COMPRESSED IN A SOLID ENERGY SPHERE WILL IONIZE WITH A WHITE-HOT BLAST OF "LIGHTNING-VISION"--
--CREATING A POWERFUL MAGNETIC FIELD--
--WHICH I CAN MANIPULATE TO SUIT MY PURPOSE.
KA-RUMP!


"--AND ALL BEFORE NINE O'CLOCK. IF I MAY SAY, I FEEL PRETTY GOOD."
KOOOM!
A DISASTER WAS AVERTED, AND NO ONE WAS HURT. I'M ACTUALLY BEGINNING TO MASTER MY NEW POWERS, INSTEAD OF THE OTHER WAY AROUND...
...THOUGH SOMETHING THAT "MILLENNIUM GUARD" SAID STILL BOTHERS ME.
DO THESE POWERS MAKE ME SOME KIND OF DANGER? AFTER ALL, I STILL DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND THEIR ORIGIN...
...WELL, I WON'T LET IT RUIN MY DAY.


MORNING, EVERYONE...
--MAYOR FRANK BERKOWITZ HAD THIS TO SAY AT THIS MORNING'S IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE:
NO CITIZEN OF METROPOLIS IS MORE CONCERNED THAN I AM OVER THIS RASH OF ABDUCTIONS THAT HAS PLAGUED THIS CITY RECENTLY.


I GIVE YOU MY PERSONAL ASSURANCE AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL AND AS A CONCERNED PARENT THAT THE "RIPPER" WILL BE APPREHENDED SOON.
THERE IS EVIDENCE AS OF EARLY THIS MORNING THAT I AM SURE WILL LEAD TO AN ARREST WITHIN DAYS.
MR. MAYOR, HOW IS IT THAT THE POLICE HAVE COME UP WITH THIS NAME?
AT THE LATEST CRIME SCENE, THE NAME WAS FOUND SCRAWLED INTO THE FACE OF A BRICK WALL.


WHAT ABOUT THE RUMORS THAT THE "RIPPER" ISN'T EVEN HUMAN? THAT IT'S SOME KIND OF MONSTER?
THOSE ARE JUST RUMORS AND AS YET, UNFOUNDED. NO MORE QUESTIONS, PLE☆
PERRY! THESE ABDUCTIONS WERE MY STORY! WHY WASN'T I TOLD ABOUT THE PRESS CONFERENCE?
WELL, KENT, NOT 24 HOURS AGO, YOU WERE ABDUCTED YOURSELF. IF ALIENS HADN'T SCOOPED YOU UP IN FRONT OF MY OWN EYES, WELL--
LET'S JUST SAY I FIGURED YOU NEEDED SOME TIME TO RECOVER. I GAVE THE ASSIGNMENT TO WHIT.
IT WAS PRETTY STRANGE. BUT THEY JUST LEFT ME IN A FIELD NOT FAR FROM THE LUTHOR ESTATE. I'M FINE.
WELL, WHIT LINED UP SOME INTERVIEWS AT THE 16th PRECINCT--
DOWN IN LITTLE TOKYO?
THAT'S WHERE THE RIPPER STRUCK LAST. WHILE WE WERE AT LUTHOR'S PARTY.
I'LL CALL WHIT AND TAKE THE INTERVIEWS.
BETTER REVIEW THOSE FILES, THEN, AND GET ALL THE DETAILS ON THE LATEST CASE.
AND LEAVE YOUR BATMAN COSTUME AT HOME. YOU'RE NOT OUT TO BE A SUPERHERO.
ALL THE VICTIMS HAVE BEEN CHILDREN WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED IN THE CITY'S SOUTHWEST QUARTER, ACROSS THE RIVER FROM QUEENSLAND PARK.
NOTHING SIMILAR ABOUT THEM EXCEPT LOCATION.
NOW THIS IS INTERESTING. ACCORDING TO THIS POLICE REPORT, BURTON "HUNTER" THOMPSON APPARENTLY FORCED HIS WAY ONTO THE CRIME SCENE LAST NIGHT.
FROM THE DESK OF DR F. SCHOEN, M.E.
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
SPECIAL

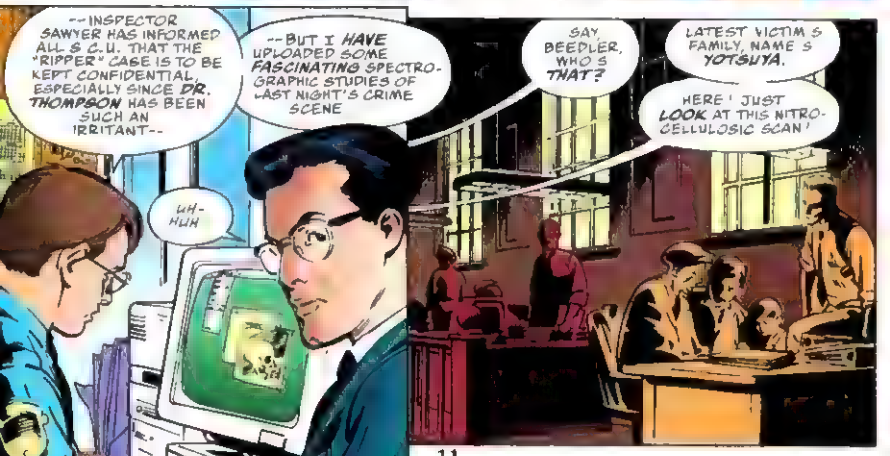
"IF S.T.A.R. LABS IS MIXED UP IN THIS, MAYBE THERE'S SOME TRUTH TO THIS 'SEWER MONSTER' RUMOR AFTER ALL."
BAY ST
CANAL ST
BLAST!
SINGH! GET IN HERE!
YOU BELLOWED, DR. THOMPSON?
I ASKED FOR SCHEMATICS FOR ELECTRIC, WATER, AND SEWAGE FOR THE WHOLE OF NEW TROY! ARE YOU TRYING TO SABOTAGE ME, PETER?
I DO MY BEST, DOCTOR.
I EXPECT THE AUTHORITIES TO STAND IN THE WAY OF PROGRESS, BUT NOT MY ASSISTANT!
BURTON THOMPSON
DIRECTOR
I AM AS KEEN AS YOU TO RECOVER--
NO ONE WANTS THIS MATTER RESOLVED MORE THAN ME! DO YOU KNOW WHAT THOSE MEDIA IDIOTS HAVE NAMED IT NOW? "THE RIPPER!"
I CORRALLED WILD CREATURES LONG BEFORE I CAME TO S.T.A.R. LABS! IF THERE'S ONE LOOSE IN THE CITY, I AM THE ONLY PERSON QUALIFIED TO DEAL WITH IT.
IF NECESSARY, WITH LETHAL FORCE.
THE RIPPER IS STILL AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY, AND I WILL ENSURE IT STAYS THAT WAY--

"--OR MY NAME'S NOT 'HUNTER!'"
JERK PIT
LOOK ALL YOU WANT, RON TROUPE. YOUR GIRLFRIEND IS NOT GONNA SHOW.
LUCY SAID SHE'D BE HERE AND SHE WILL, LENDA.
I DON'T GET IT. SHE'S USUALLY SO RELIABLE.
MAYBE IT'S THE COMPANY ON THIS OCCASION.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I MEAN MAYBE MISS LANE DOESN'T WANT TO MEET YOUR SISTER THE SISTER.
COME ON. SHE'S COMING, OKAY? IF LUCY HAD A RACE PROBLEM, WOULD SHE BE DATING ME?
ALL I'M SAYING IS IT'S DIFFERENT TO BE IN THE MINORITY. ONE ON ONE IS DIFFERENT THAN BEING WITH THE FAMILY.
WELL, HOW ABOUT MEETING HER HALFWAY? WHY DIDN'T WE HAVE LUNCH IN HER NEIGHBORHOOD?
WOULD SHE SHOW UP THEN? FORGET ABOUT HER, RON. I KNOW LOTS OF GIRLS THAT WOULD BE GOOD FOR YOU...

I DON'T NEED ANY--
HEY, IS THIS A PRIVATE ARGUMENT, OR CAN ANY-ONE JOIN?
KEISHA!
GIRL, THIS IS MY BROTHER, RON. HE MAY LOOK LIKE A HEAD CASE, BUT HE'S SWEET.
HEY, SWEET BROTHER.
YOU KNOW, WE WERE JUST KINDA TALKING ABOUT YOU, RON. YOU MIND IF KEISHA SITS HERE?
NOT AT ALL. I WAS JUST GOING TO MAKE A PHONE CALL.
--THINK I'M OLD ENOUGH TO MAKE MY OWN DECISIONS ON DATING PARTNERS.
I'M WORRIED, THOUGH. IF LUCY BAILED, THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG. I'LL TRY HER PLACE FIRST...

" THEN I'LL TRY THE OFFICE."
HEY! COULD SOMEONE GET THAT?
'S YOUR PHONE, LOIS
RINNG!
RINNG!
LOIS LANE.
RON! I JUST GOT IN HOW ARE YOU?
OH NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN LUCY WHY? YOU CALLED HER PLACE? SURE NO THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE HER
UH, HUH... I WILL... SAY, DIDN'T YOU JUST SEE HER LAST NIGHT?
ARMSTRONG
YEAH, THAT'S WHY IT'S SO STRANGE. SHE WAS GO NG TO MEET MY SISTER OVER LUNCH.
I'M SURE THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT I'LL GIVE YOU A BUZZ IF I HEAR ANY-THING. OKAY? HOLD ON, I'VE GOT ANOTHER CALL.

WELL, I KNOW THIS, MR KENT WHATEVER DID THIS WAS NOT HUMAN
CAN YOU GUESS AT WHAT IT WAS?
POLICE PRECT
POLICE
I KNOW IT'S NOT JUST A KILLER, IT'S CARNIVOROUS, TOO. MAYBE TEN FEET TALL .. POWERFUL
WHAT ABOUT THE WRITING, THE RIPPER'S "SIGNATURE"? COULD SOMETHING LIKE YOU'VE DESCRIBED BE RESPONSIBLE?
I'M A MEDICAL EXAMINER, BUT IF YOU ASK ME, SOMETIMES PEOPLE JUST SEE WHAT THEY WANT TO.
OFF THE RECORD, KENT, BERKOWITZ WANTS ANSWERS YESTERDAY. AND WHEN THE MAYOR BUSTS YOUR HUMP, THERE MUST BE AN ELECTION BREWIN


--INSPECTOR SAWYER HAS INFORMED ALL S.C.U. THAT THE "RIPPER" CASE IS TO BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL, ESPECIALLY SINCE DR. THOMPSON HAS BEEN SUCH AN IRRITANT--
--BUT I HAVE UPLOADED SOME FASCINATING SPECTROGRAPHIC STUDIES OF LAST NIGHT'S CRIME SCENE
UH-HUH
SAY, BEEDLER, WHO'S THAT?
LATEST VICTIM'S FAMILY, NAME'S YOTSUYA.
HERE! JUST LOOK AT THIS NITROCELLULOSIC SCAN!

EXCUSE ME, FOLKS. MY NAME'S CLARK KENT. I'M A REPORTER FOR THE PLANET. I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS
REPORTER? NO QUESTIONS! YOU GO AWAY!
MY DAUGHTER LOSE ONE BABY YOU WANT TO PUT OTHER BABY IN PAPER SO SHE GET TAKEN, TOO?
PLEASE, MISTER, JUST LEAVE US BE...
I DON'T WANT TO EXPLOIT YOUR SITUATION--
--BUT IN MY LINE OF WORK, I SEE A LOT OF TRAGEDY
I'VE WATCHED FRIENDS DIE, I'VE HAD TO DO MY JOB AMID ALL MANNER OF INHUMANITY.
BUT I DO IT BECAUSE I BELIEVE I CAN HELP, BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT THE PRESS SERVES THE PUBLIC
YOU COULD HELP PREVENT ANOTHER CHILD FROM BEING TAKEN. IF YOU WANT TO TALK, I'LL BE AROUND THE STATION
BEEPEEKBEEPEE!
EXCUSE ME
YES?
IT'S LOIS! I'M COMING DOWN! I JUST TALKED TO AN OFFICER -THERE WAS A CANVASS OF THAT NEIGHBORHOOD LAST NIGHT--
LOOKING FOR WITNESSES?
YES, MY SISTER LUCY LIVES IN ONE OF THE BUILDINGS THERE--!
LOIS! WHAT IS IT?
TAXI!
..LUCY WASN'T AT HER APARTMENT --AND NOW THEY'VE FOUND SOME OF HER THINGS IN THE SEWER!

"--A COMPACT, CRACKED MIRROR VARIOUS PIECES OF I.D., SOME OTHER TOILETRIES
" NOTHING TOGETHER. IT WAS A CLEAR TRAIL BUT IT STOPPED BEFORE THE MAIN TRUNK..."
DVD
POLICE LINE · DO NOT CROSS · POLICE LINE · DO NOT CROSS
NO WITNESSES, BUT THIS GOES AGAINST WHAT LITTLE WE KNOW ABOUT THE R PPER. UP TO NOW NO ADULT HAS BEEN ABDUCTED.
SHE MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE, RIGHT, INSPECTOR?
THAT'S WHY WE'RE NOT WAITING, SUPERMAN I'M GOING DOWN, WITH TURPIN COVERING
I CAN TAKE YOUR PLACE MASSIE
NO OFFENSE BLUE BUT WITHOUT X-RAY VISION OR YOUR OTHER ABILITIES YOU'RE NOT MUCH HELP TO US.
MASSIE I'VE GOT STEALTH CAPABILITIES THE S.C.U CAN'T MATCH
SHOW ME
ARE YOU READY TO LET ME GO NOW?

LOOK, DOCTOR. IT IS THE SUPERMAN YOU HAVE TAUGHT ME SO MUCH ABOUT.
DO YOU THINK HE KNOWS? SHOULD WE NOT INTERVENE?
NOT YET OBSERVE AND LEARN YET MORE.
DARK THIS WAY IF ONLY--
--WAIT. THE DAY MY NEW POWERS MANIFESTED THEMSELVES THERE WAS A BRIEF DISORIENTING PERIOD WHEN I COULD SEE OTHER SPECTRA--
HMMM I'LL NEED TO PHASE OUT MORE OR LESS COMPLETELY IN ORDER TO MOVE UNDETECTED
SPLISH!
-IT'S BEEN EASIER SINCE THEN TO JUST SHUT IT OUT, BUT IF I COULD TUNE THOSE ABILITIES
FIRST JUST RELAX MY VISION, LET IT RETURN GRADUALLY.

WHOA! ALL RIGHT. I KNEW IT WOULD BE THIS WAY. NOW TO CONCENTRATE--
--FILTER OUT IRRELEVANT BAND-WIDTHS--
--LOCALIZE ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS AND MICRO-CHANGES IN AIR DENSITY...
...BINGO!
IT'S SOME DISTANCE AWAY. I CAN'T FLY, DUE TO THE ACCOMPANYING THUNDER-CLAP, BUT I CAN STILL TRAVEL IN A STRAIGHT LINE
...SHOULD BE JUST ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS WALL...
...GOOD LORD!

IT'S BIG!
I'LL STAY IN "STEALTH" MODE, BUT I'D BETTER PHASE N
ANTICIPATING ITS NEXT MOVE IS THE HARD PART DO I STAY HIDDEN AND TRY TO LOCATE LUCY, OR
KRAK!
UNNGH!

HOW DID IT KNOW--?
OF COURSE! I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED! A CREATURE LIVING IN TOTAL DARKNESS WOULDN'T BE LIMITED TO SEEING IN THE VISIBLE SPECTRUM!
WELL, I'VE TIPPED MY HAND NOW. TIME TO GO ON THE OFFENSIVE.
IT'S RETREATING FAST. IT MAY THINK IT HAS THE ADVANTAGE, KNOWING THE TUNNELS--
--BUT, IF I TIME THIS RIGHT, I CAN HEAD IT OFF--
THRAK
--RIGHT--
KOOM!

--NOW!
TZZ
AAK!
RAAOOU!!
TOO QUICK--
UNNG!
KUNK!
--CAN'T--
UFFF!
SPTAK!

uhhn... DIDN'T EVEN GET A CHANCE TO PHASE OUT, GO IMMATERIAL...
unn... NOW IT'S GONE? THE RIPPER'S SUPPOSED TO BE A KILLER, ISN'T IT?
IT ALMOST SEEMED RELUCTANT TO FIGHT, THOUGH IT DIDN'T PULL ANY PUNCHES.
MAYBE IT WANTS TO LEAD ME SOMEWHERE. BETTER DO A LONG-RANGE SCAN...
...WAIT-- ANOTHER BODY NEARBY. SMALLER. COULD BE LUCY.
THE RIPPER'S VANISHED NOW. TOO MUCH ELECTROMAGNETIC INTERFERENCE IN THESE CONDUITS TO "SEE" MORE THAN A HUNDRED FEET OR SO...
ONCE UPON A TIME, I'D BE WORRIED ABOUT LEAD CONTENT...
H-HELLO? IN HERE! HELP ME!
HOLD ON, LUCY! I'M COMING!

SUPERMAN! THANK GOODNESS! YOU FOUND MY TRAIL!
GET ME OUT OF HERE! I'M AFRAID TO MOVE ANY OF THIS STUFF WITHOUT IT COL-LAPSING!
YOU'RE BRUISED! ARE YOU HURT?
I FELL TRYING TO GET AWAY, BUT IT DIDN'T HURT ME. IT JUST KEPT MAKING THESE... DRAWINGS TO SHOW ME!
THINK MAYBE IT TURNED TO KIDNAPPING AFTER ITS ARTS FUNDING WAS CUT?
LUCY, THAT'S NOT DRAWING-- THAT'S WRITING! THE POLICE THOUGHT IT WAS ENGLISH--
--BUT THERE ARE OTHER SYMBOLS, TOO!
THE RIPPER WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING, BUT WHAT?
"RIPPER"? MAYBE YOU CAN, UM, BRING ME UP TO SPEED ON THE WAY OUT, SUPERMAN?
OF COURSE, LUCY. BUT THERE'S MORE TO THIS CREATURE THAN ANYONE THOUGHT.
IT COULD HAVE KILLED US BOTH, BUT IT OBVIOUSLY WANTED SOMETHING ELSE.
YEAH, LIKE TO MAKE ME THE BRIDE OF FRANKEN-STEIN.
SOMETIMES I THINK EVERY MONSTER IN METROPOLIS HAS THE HOTS FOR ME...

新光輝
--COULD BE A HUMANOID MUTATION, OR EVEN ALIEN, BUT IT'S HIGHLY INTELLIGENT.
MOST SERIAL KILLERS ARE...
I DOUBT IT'S PATHOLOGICAL. THE WORD "RIPPER" WAS A MESSAGE THAT CAN'T BE TAKEN AT FACE VALUE.
I'M SURE BEEDLER COULD DECRIPT IT IF HE HAD THE WHOLE ALPHABET...
BUT THE BOTTOM LINE IS, IT GOT AWAY, RIGHT?
TURPIN? I DIDN'T SAY THE CASE WAS CLOSED BY ANY MEANS.
YOSHI
NOW THAT LUCY'S OUT OF DANGER AND THE RIPPER'S CENTRAL LOCATION HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO HELP--
THAT AIN'T IT. I RESPECT YA, SUPES, AND I DON'T WANTCHA TA GET A REP.
WORD GETS AROUND ON THE STREET, AND THE PUBLIC'S FICKLE, Y'KNOW? I KNOW YA DONE YER JOB TONIGHT--
--BUT YA GOTTA CONVINCE THEM YER STILL THE SAME HERO YA USED TA BE.
METROPOLIS POLICE

YOU SEE, CHILD? SUPERMAN IS THE KIND OF HERO TO WHOM VIOLENCE IS THE ONLY ANSWER. REGRETFULLY, WE ARE BOUND TO SPEAK TO HIM IN THE ONLY LANGUAGE HE KNOWS.
LOOK AT HIM PARADING LIKE A PETULANT GOD.
I USED TO BE NOT UNLIKE HIM, YOU KNOW.
ONCE I THOUGHT I COULD REMAKE THE EARTH. AFTER I PURGED ALL LIFE FROM HER SURFACE, OF COURSE.
I NOW KNOW I WAS IN ERROR.
FETCH MY WEAPONS.
YES, DOCTOR.
SUPERMAN, TOO, WILL FIND THE PATH--
--AND IF HE CANNOT, HE WILL FEEL THE BITE OF KIRICHITAN'S SWORD!
To Be Continued!